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PWA Freestyle eliminations delayed by lack of wind

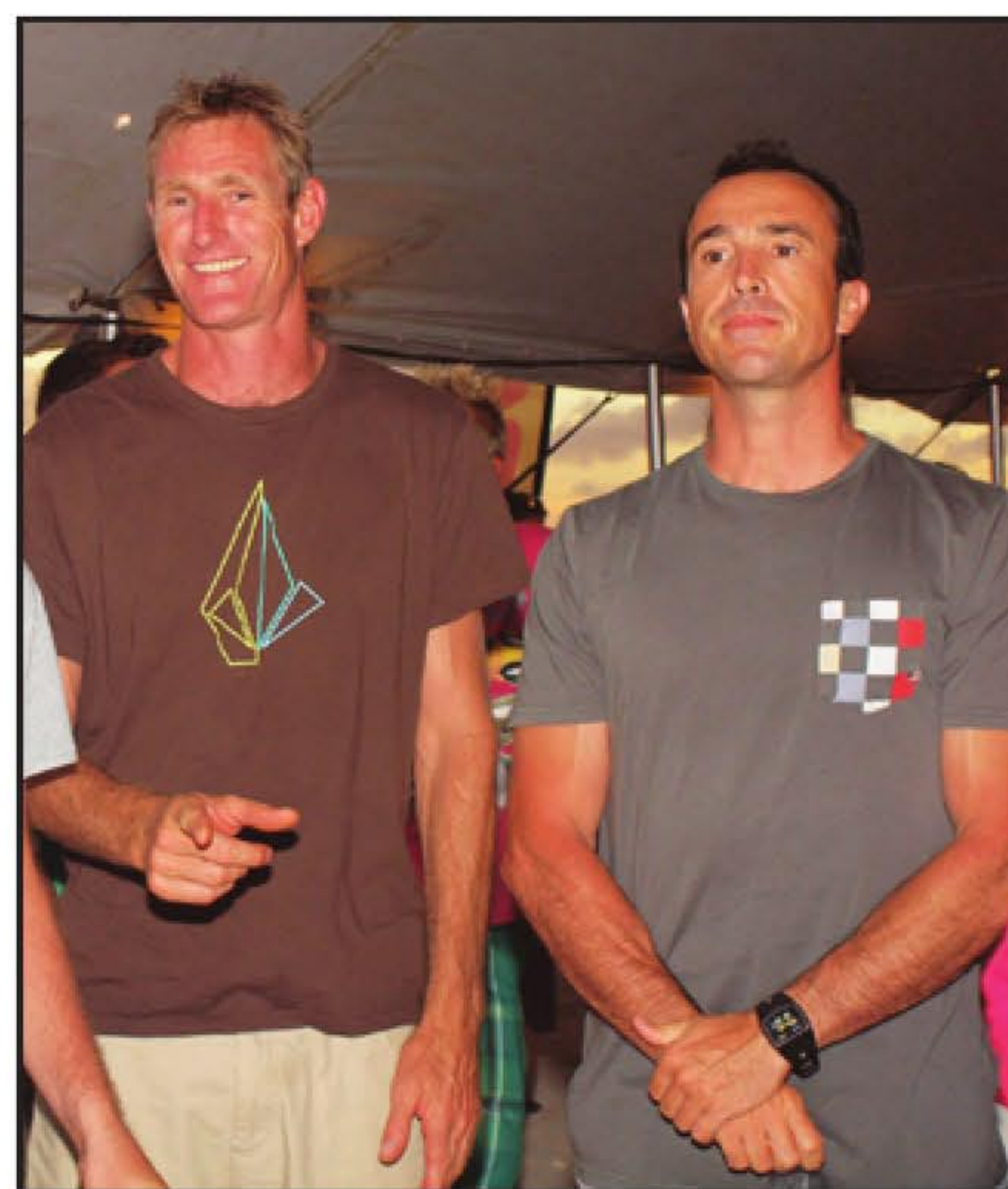


Sarah Quita and Staff Dude Evert Bongers check out the latest news

The Aruba Hi-Winds/PWA Pro/AM Grandslam enjoyed a rousing start with Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser windsurf-

for 11 a.m., then again at noon, and yet again at 2:30 p.m.

Head Judge Duncan Coombs, a former British National Freestyle Champion was hopeful of at least some of the competitors getting on the water before the end of the day. "Today's style of freestyle tricks are very different than in my day," he observed. "What we would do we would call "light wind," tricks, staying closer to the water. Now most of the routines call for a great deal of aerial acrobatics, which is very exciting for the spectators, but we just don't have the wind for it right now." Consulting with slalom competitors who were out warming up and getting used to Aruba's waters, he was informed the wind was extremely light, had started to show some signs of picking up, but again appeared to be dying down at around 3:00 p.m.



Head judge Duncan Coombs left, and Slalom Race Director Juan Antonio Aragon

ing into the shore in a dress suit to announce the official opening on Sunday evening.

However, yesterday did not follow through on the promise of some great freestyle action on the water, as extremely light winds and unfavorable conditions resulted in cancellations of the elimination rounds scheduled

2 and a half more days for them to finish the freestyle rounds. Competitors waited around the official PWA headquarters awaiting word they could get out on the water, including Aruba's own Sarah-Quita Offringa, 3 times PWA Women's Freestyle World Champion, and now defending her title for the first time on her "home turf."

"I am very excited at the prospect of having all my windsurf buddies, family and friends here to watch me compete-or I was, until this weather hit," she commented. All the action, when it happens, can be followed on 98.5 Cool FM radio station, which has moved their studio to the Fisherman's Hut area, which is PWA headquarters for the coming week; DJ's will provide running commentary throughout the day.

Veteran competition staffer Evert Bongers, a regular volunteer at most of the sailing events conducted on Aruba expressed some embarrassment at the unusual conditions.

"This is sort of standard operation proceedings at windsurf meets around the world, waiting for the proper conditions, but not here-not Aruba."

By Rosalie Klein



Sarah Quita with Men's slalom World Champion since 2006 Antoine Abau

Duncan said there are still